













# Ranger Guided Programs

	Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
Daily	<b>Junior Rangers by the Lake</b> 	Learn about the national park while enjoying the beach. Children can complete an activity page about the lakeshore and earn a Junior Ranger Beachcombers patch. Get this free activity page from a ranger on the beach or at the visitor center.	Peak Beach Hours	West Beach & Mount Baldy
Weekends	<b>Family Day at the Douglas Center</b>	Enjoy the hands-on, family activities available in the center, help feed the center’s resident turtles or fish or join a ranger for a hike in Miller Woods. Call the Douglas Center at 219-395-1821 for this week’s special speaker or activity.	June - September 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
	<b>Chellberg Farm Open House</b>	Go inside of the farmhouse and learn what life was like on a farm about 100 years ago.	June 11 – September 4 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Chellberg Farm
	<b>Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm Walk</b>	Join a ranger for a leisurely 1.5 mile walk that includes tours of two historic sites: the Chellberg Farm & Bailly Homestead. Children can complete an activity page and earn a Junior Ranger Heritage Patch during the program, too.	June 11 – September 4 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Chellberg Farm & Bailly Homestead parking lot
	<b>Fun at the Farm</b> 	Kids, accompanied by an adult, can join a ranger to learn about both the work and fun had by kids about 100 years ago on an Indiana dunes farm.	June 11 – September 4 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Chellberg Farm
Wednesday	<b>Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm Open Houses</b>	Tour the historic homestead of fur trader and land speculator Joseph Bailly, one of the area’s first settlers, and then take a short walk to Chellberg Farm to learn about life on an early Duneland farmstead. Kids can complete an activity sheet to earn a Junior Ranger Heritage patch.	June 8 - August 17 1:00 p.m. – 4 :00p.m.	Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farmhouse.
Friday	<b>Music Heritage Series</b>	Local musicians help sustain the culture of the Duneland region by sharing historic tunes using instruments like the hurdy gurdy and dulcimer.	June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Indiana Dunes Visitor Center
	<b>Mount Baldy Sunset Hike</b> 	Enjoy a sunset stroll with a ranger at Mount Baldy and learn about the threats faced by this famous dune and what you can do to help protect it.	June 3, June 24, July 1, August 12 June & July: 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. August 12: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Mount Baldy
	<b>Firefly Walk</b>	During this 60-minute program learn about the different behaviors that fireflies exhibit during the summer, and view the spectacular evening show. Also learn how climate change may affect insects like the firefly and ways you can help reduce its effects.	July 22 & 29 8:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.	Chellberg Farm & Bailly Homestead parking lot
	<b>Duneland’s Disappearing Night Sky</b> 	Come out and enjoy the dunes by starlight and observe the night sky through a telescope. Meet at the visitor center for a short indoor presentation on our endangered night sky and then make the short drive to the Kemil Road beach access parking lot. Insect repellent recommended and you may want to bring something to sit on. Scouts can earn their Astronomy Merit Badge at this program.	June 10, July 8, August 5, Sept. 2 June & July: 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. August: 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. September: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
Saturday	<b>Discovering Your Neighborhood National Park (Campground Program)</b>	Join a ranger around the campfire and learn about the diversity of park resources, and activities that can be found at the national lakeshore.	June 4 – Sept. 3 (Excluding July 2 & July 23) June: 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. July: 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Aug.–Sept.: 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Dunewood Campground Amphitheater
	<b>Junior Wildland Firefighter Program</b> 	Meet the park’s fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. After this hands-on program, children will receive their very own Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and a Junior Wildland Firefighter patch.	Campground Amphitheater June 25, July 23 & August 27 West Beach Contact Station June 11, July 9 & Aug. 13 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	See Date & Time
	<b>Pinhook Bog Open House</b>	Take a self-guided hike into Indiana’s only quaking bog. Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants. Allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog.	June 25 July 23, August 27, September 24 (Except July 3rd) 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Pinhook Bog parking lot
	<b>Night Hike</b>	By the light of the quarter moon come and learn what is making those noises. Become more comfortable hiking outdoors at night accompanied by tonight’s ranger. This program is repeated under the full moon on Saturday, August 13 at 8:00 p.m.	July 23 & August 13 8:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Sunday	<b>Kids Fun at the Visitor Center</b> 	Join a ranger in the Visitor Center’s activity room for an afternoon of kid’s activities, stories, and fun. Also learn about the “Let’s Move” activities that kids can do to help stay fit in their national park and earn a sticker.	Sundays, Year-round	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center
	<b>Pinhook Bog Open House</b>	Take a self-guided hike into Indiana’s only quaking bog. Rangers and volunteers stationed along the trail will help you understand this unique place filled with carnivorous plants. Allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog.	Sundays, June 26 - Aug. 14 (Except July 3rd) 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Pinhook Bog parking lot



◇ *Programs that support America’s Great Outdoors initiative.*  
*Visit [www.AmericasGreatOutdoors.gov](http://www.AmericasGreatOutdoors.gov)*

PROGRAMS MAY BE CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE

# Ranger Guided Programs

Program	Description	Date & Time	Location
Special Events			
Take a Kid Fishing Day at the Dunes 	Join “America’s Great Outdoors” initiative and do some fishing in your national lakeshore. Bring your own fishing gear and get tips on fishing from a park ranger. All ages welcome. This is during “Free Fishing Weekend”, so a fishing license is not required. However, all other state fishing regulations apply.	June 4 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
Celebrate 25 Years at the Douglas Center	Join the National Park Service and partners in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and “Leave No Child Inside” month. This free event will feature a variety of family friendly, hands-on activities.	June 25 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
A pre-Fourth of July Picnic	Join a ranger with your lunch in the picnic area behind the Douglas Center and look for elusive animals who may be watching you, too. In addition to your lunch, bring along your binoculars.	July 2 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education
Kayaking Burns Waterway 	Join a ranger for a brief presentation of the “Threatened Lake Michigan” program and then go on a kayak tour of the Burns Waterway. You must bring your own kayak and life preserver.	July 16 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk
Calumet Outdoor Series - Hike from Mt. Baldy to Central Beach	Join a ranger for a hike from Mt. Baldy site to our Central Beach site. Parking is limited.	August 20 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot
Duneland Heritage Days 	Embark on a journey through 10,000 years of shared Indiana Dunes heritage at this popular festival.	September 17-18 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead
National Public Lands Day: Improving the Cowles Bog Wetland	National Public Lands Day is the nation’s largest, hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America’s public lands. Join a ranger to help improve one of our most threatened wetlands.	September 24 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Cowles Bog south parking lot
Fall Colors Walk	Take a hike with a ranger to enjoy the fall colors and to learn how the wildlife and woodlands prepare for the coming scarcity of winter.	October 22 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Calumet Dune Trail

## Stewardship Days

Saving Mount Baldy	Join in as we remove oriental bittersweet and other invasive species in the Mount Baldy area. Also, learn about the other threats to this dune and what you can do to help. Meet at the Mount Baldy parking Lot.	June 18 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mount Baldy parking lot
Rain Gardens	Learn about the importance of wetlands and to help work on one of the lakeshore’s rain gardens and a nearby wetland. Meet at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Headquarters Flag Pole.	July 16 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at Building 104.
Bailly Cemetery Clean-up	Volunteer in helping to care for your local national park. Join in as we wash the stone walls and spruce up the grounds of the historic Bailly Cemetery. Meet at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Headquarters Flag Pole.	August 20 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Meet at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road at Building 104.
Harvesting the Prairie	Help collect seeds from this tall grass prairie that will be used to restore additional prairie lands throughout the national lakeshore. Meet at the Mnoke Prairie Parking Lot.	October 15 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mnoké Prairie parking lot

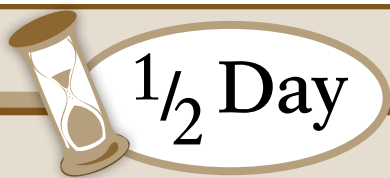
For information on listed and additional programs, call 219-926-7561.

## Trip Planning



If you only have one – two hours:

- Hike to the summit of Mt. Baldy to enjoy a spectacular view of Lake Michigan and the national lakeshore.
- Learn about the ever changing dunes and the plants that call them home by hiking the West Beach Dune Succession Trail and boardwalk.
- Relax at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and enjoy the park video, “Child of the Northwest Wind” for a virtual tour of park. Then, help the kids explore the center’s activity room to learn even more about this special place.
- Travel along Lakefront Drive to view Lake Michigan and the five historic Century of Progress Homes from the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair.
- Bring a picnic and enjoy a lakeside lunch at either the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk site or Lakeview.



If you have half a day:

- Join one of the many ranger-led programs designed to help you find your own connection to this incredibly diverse national park.
- Lounge on any of the 15 miles of national lakeshore beach and enjoy beautiful views of the expansive Lake Michigan. While you’re relaxing, the kids can earn a Junior Ranger Beachcombers patch by completing a fun activity sheet.
- Take a trip back through time and tour the historic Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm to learn about early Duneland history. Then, follow the same trail to Mnoké Prairie and learn about the restoration efforts underway in this rare habitat.
- Journey deep into Inland Marsh to explore the trails through a fire dependant habitat and perhaps catch a glimpse of the Karner Blue butterfly, an endangered species.

If you have one – two days:

- Spend the night at Dunewood Campground to experience the natural night life of the dunes. During your stay, join a ranger around the amphitheater’s campfire for a Saturday evening program.
- If you’re experienced enough, kayak along the new Lake Michigan Water Trail to see the dunes and national lakeshore from a whole new perspective.
- Hike through Miller Woods, a rare black oak savannah tucked behind the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, and explore the many interdunal ponds along the trail. Then stop in the center to check out the animal room and new exhibits.
- Take a hike along the rugged 5-mile long Cowles Bog Trail to explore wetlands, savannah, and high dunes. Then, enjoy a picnic lunch on a beach that is only accessible by hiking or boat. Looking to avoid crowds? Enjoy the lakeshore in spring and fall to avoid the summer crowds. There are usually fewer visitors mid-week during any time of the year.

